



SANDY URBAN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1968

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. W. C. LOBBAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

**SURVEYOR AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

J. STIRLING, Cert. R.S.A.(Scot.), M.A.P.H.I.

A N N U A L R E P O R T F O R 1 9 6 8

To the CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE SANDY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances for the District for the year 1968.

The vital statistics for the year are again satisfactory and compare favourably with those of the country as a whole.

For very many years there has been international agreement on the classification of diseases and causes of death and the Registrar General has provided annually for each local authority area an analysis of deaths based on an abridged version of the International Lists. For the eighteen years to 1967, this abridged list consisted of thirty-six causes. However, following a further revision of the International Classification, the Registrar General has revised his short list and it now comprises sixty-five causes. Because of the length of the new list, the table which shows the causes of death only contains those causes from which a death occurred.

No major outbreak of infectious disease occurred and once more there was no case of diphtheria or poliomyelitis in the district.

This satisfactory state of affairs can only be maintained if full acceptance of the immunisations available for their children is continued by the public. Immunisation against measles was commenced by the Health Department of the County Council in 1968 and we look forward to the beneficial results of this in the years to come.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for their whole-hearted co-operation, and the members of the staff, particularly Mr. Miller, who is responsible for the bulk of this report, for their courtesy and efficiency at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A.W.C. LOBBAN
Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	.. .. .. .. .. ..	4,362
Registrar General's Estimate of Home Population		5,120
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1968		1,754
Rateable Value		£184,759
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated)		£756

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	50	43	93
Illegitimate	1	3	4
	—	—	—
	51	46	97
	—	—	—

Crude birth rate per 1000 home population	18.9
Adjusted birth rate per 1000 home population	18.9
Birth rate for England and Wales	16.9

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	—	—	—
Still birth rate per 1000 home population			Nil
Still birth rate for England and Wales			14.0

Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
All Causes	29	22	51
Crude death rate per 1000 home population			10.0
Area comparability factor			1.19
Adjusted death rate per 1000 home population			11.9
Death rate for England and Wales			11.9

Maternal Mortality - Nil

Death of Infants under one year of age

	Males		Females	Total
Legitimate	-		-	-
Illegitimate	-		-	-
Rate for all infants per 1000 live births	0.0
Rate for England and Wales	18.0
Peri-natal mortality rate	25.0

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1968

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar General's statistics.

Causes	Under 15 years		15 - 64		65 and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	-	-	2	1	-	1	4
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, Etc.	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Diabetes Mellitus	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	-	-	1	-	6	4	11
Other Forms of Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	1	-	1	3	5
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	3	2	6
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	-	1	-	3	-	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	-	-	10	4	19	18	51

CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANCY

Nil

STATISTICAL TABLE 1959 - 1968

Year	Death Rate		Infant Mortality Rate		Birth Rate	
	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales	Sandy U.D.	England & Wales
1959	11.7	11.6	18.5	22.0	14.2.	16.5
1960	14.2	11.5	15.2	21.7	17.0	17.1
1961	9.9	12.0	33.3	21.4	15.5	17.1
1962	10.9	11.9	-	21.4	16.4	18.0
1963	12.3	12.2	-	20.9	19.6	18.2
1964	10.8	11.3	-	20.0	14.9	18.4
1965	9.7	11.5	23.5	19.0	19.6	18.1
1966	8.6	11.7	-	19.0	18.4	17.7
1967	10.42	11.2	-	18.3	16.56	17.2
1968	11.9	11.9	-	18.0	18.9	16.9

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supplied in the area has proved satisfactory in quantity and quality. It is pumped direct from Greensand and requires no treatment other than chlorination.

No results of bacteriological examination of the raw water are available but samples of the water from the various points in the distribution system are taken regularly by the Water Board and by this Authority and all have been sterile.

The water is of a high standard of organic purity and is not plumbo-solvent. The following report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories is of a sample sent in for examination.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Turbidity (A.T.U.)	Nil
Colour (Hazen Units)	Nil
Reaction pH	7.39
Electric Conductivity (reciprocal megohms per cc at 20°C)	410
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.03
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.2
Chlorine in Chlorides	16
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	202
Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	12
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	214
Calcium as CaCO ₃	191
Magnesium as CaCO ₃	23
Free Carbon Dioxide	17
Iron as Fe	0.03
Lead, Copper, Zinc	None found
Sodium as Na	11
Potassium as K	3
Manganese as Mn	None found
Fluorine as F	0.15
Silica (Molybdate Reactive)	9
Phosphate as PO ₄	Less than 0.10

INFECTIOUS DISEASESGENERAL STATISTICS

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year:-

Disease	Notification by age groups					Total Cases Notified
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	Over 15	
Whooping cough	-	7	4	1	-	12
Measles	2	29	21	2	-	54
Infective hepatitis	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTALS	2	36	25	3	1	67

Vaccination and Immunisation

The Bedfordshire County Council is responsible for the provision of this service which is given direct at clinics or through the General Practitioners. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Measles, Smallpox and Tuberculosis are the diseases against which protection is given.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths recorded since 1959.

Year	New Cases						Deaths					
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F			
1959	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1		
1960	1	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-		
1961	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1962	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1963	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1964	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1965	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1966	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		
1967	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		
1968	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		

The Mobile Chest X-Ray Unit now visits Biggleswade regularly to provide a service for local medical practitioners. It is stationed at "The Lawns" every Tuesday morning, between 11.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR
FOR THE YEAR 1968

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my First Annual Report to this Council on the work carried out by my predecessor, Mr. J. Stirling, who resigned on the 31st December, 1968.

Drainage and Sewerage

The town is sewered all along the main streets and roads. Swaden, Stratford Road, Station Road, Tempsford Road, parts of Beeston Green and Seddington are not seweraged. 96 houses have septic tank drainage systems and 16 houses have pail closets.

Rivers and Streams

The Ivel Internal Drainage Board undertakes the cleaning of all streams.

Conversions from Pails to Water Closets

Total number of conversions since 1945 161

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of household refuse and emptying of pail closets is carried out by the Council's workmen in a Musketeer Refuse Vehicle which came into service in the latter part of 1966. The vehicle is supplemented by a tractor and trailer when necessary. The work is generally satisfactory, but is greatly increasing with the duties laid down upon the Council by the Civic Amenities Act, 1967. The emptying of septic tanks is carried out by contract, one free emptying per year being allowed.

Street gullies are emptied at approximately 15-week intervals by the Bedfordshire County Council on a re-chargeable basis. This has worked satisfactorily.

Street scavenging is carried out by direct labour.

The following is a summary of work carried out during the year:

Total number of visits made	..	..	..	..	94,617
Ashbins emptied	..	..	..	..	92,175
Cesspools emptied	..	..	..	..	42
Pail closets emptied	..	..	..	..	2,442
Loads of refuse and night soil removed	..	..	..	..	314

Refuse Disposal

Refuse is still being deposited at the old tip, but the new tip will be brought into operation during 1969.

Public Health and Housing Inspections

The following inspections were made and nuisances abated or defects remedied by informal action:

Housing defects	28
Unfit houses	13
Miscellaneous	36
Council house repairs	855
Routine inspections (not including Council houses) ..	601
Visits to work in progress	552
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
Buildings erected without plans and not complying with Building Regulations	2

Shops

No action with regard to shops was found to be necessary.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act.

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities)	22	2	-	-
Factories not included in (1)) in which Section 7 is enforced) by Local Authority)				
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (s.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (s.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (s.7)	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

Nature of work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by S. 110 (1)c (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failing to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel making, etc.	3	-	-	1	-	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

There are no registered premises in the district.

Meat and Other Foods

There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

Unfit Food

Voluntary surrender of the undermentioned foodstuffs found unfit has been made as follows:-

320 x 25 Kilo bags potatoes

5 lbs. corned beef

10 lbs. lambs liver

Ice Cream

Fifteen premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream

Poultry Inspections

There are no poultry processing premises within the district

Food Hygiene Regulations 1960

No. of premises:-	Grocers	..	..	..	11
	Greengrocers	..	..	..	2
	Fishmongers	..	..	..	2
	Bakers & Confectioners				1
	Butchers	..	..	..	4
	Cafe and Catering Establishments			..	6
No. of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16		..			22
No. of premises to which Regulation 19 applies	..	..			18
No. of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19		..			17

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

No. of premises registered:-	Offices	..	..	..	15
	Retail Shops	..	..	..	22
	Wholesale shops, warehouses	..	..	..	3
	Catering establishments open to public			..	2
	Fuel storage depots				1

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

The existing Sewage Works is grossly overloaded and work has commenced on the building of a new Works on a site adjacent to the existing Works, and is due for completion on the 31st July, 1970.

The scheme has been prepared, and is supervised, by the Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Binnie and Partners.

Summary of Electricity Consumed

Year	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Units	18,068	19,479	20,572	22,402	29,812	32,958	39,183

Rainfall

Year	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Inches	17.515	18.73	15.390	24.93	25.54	20.75	21.96

Rainfall 1968

	Total	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours Inches	Date	No. of days with .01 or over	.04 or over
January	1.56	.33	13	14	10
February	.80	.22	13	9	5
March	.51	.14	6	9	4
April	1.35	.29	30	10	8
May	1.58	.73	25	14	6
June	2.32	.50	20	18	13
July	3.29	1.39	10	13	11
August	3.21	.80	8	15	14
September	3.04	1.43	15	17	12
October	1.28	.47	8	10	8
November	1.63	.60	1	18	8
December	1.39	.38	17	12	6
	<u>21.96</u>	.		<u>159</u>	<u>105</u>

HOUSING

Council Houses Painted, 1968

102	£1,784. 0s. 0d.
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Number of Houses owned by the Council

Pre-War	233
Cemetery Cottage			1
Post-War	336

Ministry approval to a scheme for the modernisation of 135 pre-war houses has been received and this work will commence in 1969 at an estimated cost of £74,000.

Dwellings erected since 1945

<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Private</u>
10 Prefabs	68 Bungalows
89 Bungalows	403 Houses
214 Houses	3 Flats
<u>23</u> Flats	<u>—</u>
<u>336</u> Total	<u>474</u> Total
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

Dwellings Erected in 1968

Local Authority	...	24	Private	...	90
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Plans Submitted During the Year

Cutline development	17
Industrial development	7
Dwelling houses	..	..	..	..	7
Additions and extensions	..	..	..	..	31
Garages, sheds, verandahs, etc.		..	..	..	38
Advertisements	..	..	..	..	2
Improved access	..	..	..	..	1
Agricultural buildings	..	..	..	..	10
Offices	..	..	..	..	2
Electricity overhead lines	..	..	..	..	2
Change of use	..	..	..	..	3
Shops	..	..	..	..	2
Walls	..	..	..	..	1
Sewage Works	1

Improvement Grants 1968

Standard Grants	...	6	Discretionary Grants	...	7
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Town Development Scheme

Discussions and consultations have taken place throughout the year and the Greater London Council acting as agents for this Authority are preparing plans and specifications for the construction of the industrial road and the first stage of the housing development.

It is anticipated that work will commence towards the end of 1969.

Stonecroft, Senior Citizens Housing Scheme

This scheme, comprising 16 bungalows, 7 flats, a Warden's house and a Community Centre, was officially opened during the year by the Landlord of the County. It has proved to be a very worthwhile project and is most successful.

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health and the staff for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. E. MILLER

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

